

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 - 21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) A valve for a medical device, comprising:

a housing including a lumen extending therethrough; and

a substantially planar membrane extending across the lumen to control the flow of fluid through the lumen, the membrane including first and second curved slits disposed symmetrically about an axis of the membrane and at least one additional slit disposed between said first and second curved slits.

23. (New) The valve of claim 22, wherein said first and second curved slits have curvatures that approximate adjacent portions of the periphery of said membrane.

24. (New) The valve of claim 22, wherein the slits open when acted upon by a pressure of at least a threshold magnitude.

25. (New) The valve of claim 24, wherein the membrane is divisible along a line of symmetry into symmetrical sub-regions comprising a plurality of slits, said sub-regions

cooperating to define at least one larger opening area through which fluid can pass when the slits open in response to a pressure of at least a threshold magnitude.

26. (New) The valve of claim 22, wherein the membrane is elliptical and the first and second slits are disposed symmetrically about one of a major axis and a minor axis of the membrane.
27. (New) A flow control device for a pressure actuated valve, comprising:
 - a substantially planar elastic membrane including a peripheral seating portion adapted to be secured to a housing of the pressure actuated valve and a central portion including first and second curved slits disposed symmetrically about an axis of the membrane and at least one additional slit disposed between said first and second curved slits.
28. (New) The flow control device of claim 27, wherein said first and second curved slits have curvatures that approximate adjacent portions of the periphery of said membrane.
29. (New) The flow control device of claim 27, wherein the slits open when acted upon by a pressure of at least a threshold magnitude.
30. (New) The flow control device of claim 29, wherein the membrane is divisible along a line of symmetry into symmetrical sub-regions comprising a plurality of slits, said sub-regions cooperating to define at least one larger opening area through which fluid can

pass when the slits open in response to a pressure of at least a threshold magnitude.

31. (New) The flow control device of claim 27, wherein the membrane is elliptical and the first and second slits are disposed symmetrically about one of a major axis and a minor axis of the membrane.
32. (New) A dialysis catheter, comprising:
 - a catheter body having a distal end insertable into a blood vessel, a proximal end connectable to a dialysis machine and a lumen extending between the proximal and distal ends; and
 - a pressure actuated valve disposed in the lumen to regulate flow therethrough, the valve comprising:
 - a substantially planar elastic membrane including first and second curved slits disposed symmetrically about the membrane and at least one additional slit disposed between said first and second curved slits.
33. (New) The dialysis catheter of claim 32, wherein said first and second curved slits have curvatures that approximate adjacent portions of the periphery of said membrane.
34. (New) The dialysis catheter of claim 32, wherein the slits open when acted upon by a pressure of at least a threshold magnitude.
35. (New) The dialysis catheter of claim 34, wherein the membrane is divisible along a line

of symmetry into symmetrical sub-regions comprising a plurality of slits, said sub-regions cooperating to define at least one larger opening area through which fluid can pass when the slits open in response to a pressure of at least a threshold magnitude.

36. (New) The dialysis catheter of claim 32,, wherein the slits open when acted upon by a pressure of at least a threshold magnitude, said threshold being substantially greater than would be induced by a patient's vascular system.
37. (New) The dialysis catheter of claim 32, wherein the membrane is elliptical and the first and second slits are disposed symmetrically about one of a major axis and a minor axis of the membrane.